

MEMORANDUM

November 20, 2001

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: St. Andrew's request

Joe Robinson, Dean of St. Andrew's, approached me last night with an unusual request. On 6:00pm on December 23, St. Andrew's is planning to do "Los Posados," a procession that commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The idea is to do the procession along both sides of Capitol Street in front of the cathedral. The path of the procession is lit with small luminaries.

Joe wanted to know if it would be possible to have the procession make a loop across the front drive of the Mansion (in through the West Street gate and out through the Congress Street gate). The procession would probably stop in front of the Mansion to sing a Christmas carol before moving on.

The procession would include individuals from the Hispanic community (probably at least 50), members of the cathedral, priests in vestments, acolytes, vergers and possibly a small donkey carrying "Mary." The procession would end with the placement of statues of Joseph and Mary in the front courtyard of the cathedral.

For your information, St. Andrew's is becoming very involved with the Hispanic community. Yamily (pronounced "jamilly") Bass-Choate, who spoke at the prayer service following the September 11 attacks, is now doing a Hispanic service every Sunday that has a growing congregation as well as teaching classes in English as a second language at the cathedral.

I don't know if you want to set a precedent for allowing religious organizations to use the Mansion grounds, but it could be good news at Christmas to show acceptance of other beliefs and cultures.